

Appl. No. 09/703,623
Amdt. Dated: December 31, 2003
Reply to Office Action of 1 July 2003

REMARKS

The Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowability of Claims 9 and 11 through 14 and the indication that Claims 2 and 4 through 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 2 by reciting that the secondary flow metering device includes a blade portion. Claim 1 as amended therefore is of the same scope as Claim 2 previously on file and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been deleted and Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to be dependent upon Claim 1 rather than Claim 2. As such it is believed that Claim 1 as amended and Claims 4 through 6 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 and Claim 7 dependent on Claim 3 were withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected species. Claim 3 depends upon Claim 1 indicated as allowable and which is generic to all species. Accordingly, reconsideration of Claims 3 and 7 and allowance thereof is requested.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite as method steps the distinctions incorporated in Claim 2 previously on file. Specifically, Claim 8 now recites the step of applying a blade portion of a secondary metering device to the supply roller to produce the secondary flow on the roller. The art cited by the examiner does not disclose or suggest the provision of a blade portion and accordingly does not disclose or suggest the step of applying a blade portion to the supply roller. Accordingly, Claim 8 as amended is believed to be allowable.

A request for an extension of time of 3 months is filed herewith and in view of the final nature of the Office Action, a Notice of Appeal is filed concurrently herewith. However, it is believed that the amendments to the Claims will result in allowance of the application and render an Appeal mute.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

31 Dec 03